

Amendments to the Drawings

Formal Figures 1-4B are being submitted herewith to overcome the drawing objections.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 12, 19, and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 11 and 13 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the foregoing amendments to Claims 11 and 13 prior to further examination. No new matter has been introduced. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

Allowed Subject Matter

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 1-10.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in other claims.

The Examiner stated that Claims 12-14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 11 has been rewritten to include the limitations of Claim 12 and is therefore allowable. Claims 13-18 depend from now allowable claim 11 and are allowable for the same reasons.

Drawing Objections

Applicant herewith submits formal figures (1-4B) to overcome the objections to the drawings. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 11 and 15-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bortolussi et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,292,575) in view of Ross (U.S. Patent No. 6,195,447).

As stated above, Claim 11 has been rewritten to include the limitations of Claim 12 and is therefore allowable. Claims 13-18 depend from Claim 11 and are allowable for the same reasons. Applicant herein cancels Claims 12, 19, and 20. Applicant does not acquiesce to the rejection and reserves the right to file a continuing application or take such other appropriate

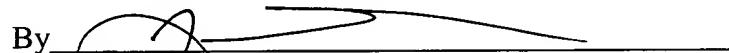
action as deemed necessary to protect the canceled claims. Applicant does not hereby abandon or waive any rights in the cancelled claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims (1-11 and 13-18) are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By 
Joseph M. Maraia
Registration No. 55,926
Telephone: (978) 341-0036
Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated: 2/3/05